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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

ROBERT E. BURKE

FEBRUARY 8, 1902

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

ROBERT E. BURKE

(LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM TEXAS),

DELIVERED IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE,

FIFTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS,
FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1902.

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DEATH OF HON. ROBERT E. BURKE.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

JANUARY 15, 1902.

Mr. WOOTEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of the resolutions which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with regret and profound sorrow of the death of Hon. ROBERT E. BURKE, late Representative-elect from the Sixth district of the State of Texas, at his home in the city of Dallas, on June 5, 1901.

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House communicate a copy of these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the House do now adjourn out of respect to the memory of the deceased member.

Accordingly, in pursuance of the above resolutions and its previous order, the House (at 3 o'clock and 40 minutes) adjourned until 12 o'clock noon on Saturday, January 18, 1902.

JANUARY 23, 1902.

Mr. WOOTEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask that Saturday afternoon, February 8, 1902, at 1 o'clock, be set aside for memorial addresses on the life and character of Hon. ROBERT E. BURKE, lately a Representative in Congress from the State of Texas.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection, and it was so ordered.

FEBRUARY 8, 1902.

Mr. WOOTEN. Mr. Speaker, it being now within a few minutes of the hour for the special order, I ask unanimous consent that the special order be taken up.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the request of the gentleman from Texas for the special order will be taken up at this time.

Mr. WOOTEN. Mr. Speaker, I offer the resolutions which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Texas offers the following resolutions, which will be read by the Clerk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended in order that an opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of Hon. ROBERT E. BURKE, late a member of the House of Representatives from the State of Texas.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his eminent abilities as a distinguished public servant, the House, at the conclusion of these memorial proceedings, shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be, and he is hereby, instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

ADDRESS OF MR. WOOTEN, OF TEXAS.

Mr. SPEAKER: It was not my privilege to know and to associate with my distinguished predecessor as a Representative in this House, and consequently I can not speak of him with that nearness and knowledge as a Congressman that his former colleagues here can and will speak; but for twelve years I did know him as a man, as a lawyer, as a judge on the bench, and as a private citizen, and I can speak of him personally, professionally, and in all the relations in which one man can know and judge another. He was a man singularly free of guile in his personal and private intercourse. Kind, generous, considerate, and thoughtful for all those with whom he came in contact, he was one of the most benevolent and conscientious friends to all mankind that I ever knew.

On the bench, in which capacity I best knew him, he was tireless, painstaking, indefatigable, and consistently faithful to the right as he understood it and could best conceive it. No man ever lived in the community in which for thirty years he was a conspicuous citizen who ever enjoyed an equal degree of personal popularity, esteem, and public confidence, and this meed of universal and uniform credit was due to the unbroken courtesy of his demeanor, the unfaltering kindness of his intercourse and the unquestioned honesty of his motive in all his conduct and attitude toward his fellow-men in every relation of life—personal, professional, and political. What more could be said of any man, and what higher tribute was ever paid to any man's career in the community in which he lived and labored?

He came to Texas as a young man from that State that has

contributed more to the growth and greatness of Texas than all the other States in the American Union. Texas from the foundations of its civilization has been a composite production, a mosaic of heterogeneous elements. Out of a complex and almost incongruous mixture of various populations and contradictory influences she has evolved a homogeneous and vigorous citizenship, composed from all possible factors and combining all imaginable elements of strength; but it is a remarkable and significant fact that I may be permitted to mention here and now, that Texas owes more of her distinguished names at the bar, on the bench, in the forum, and in every walk of useful enterprise to the State of Alabama than to any other one State in the Union.

It was there that Judge BURKE was born, and from there, as a mere boy, he went out among that gay and gallant host of Southern cavaliers who rode down to death in that far-off summer of '61 with as dauntless mien and as serene a front as any knight-errant who buckled on his armor "in fantastic Gothic chapel, beneath storied windows richly dight." Like so many others of that brave but defeated host, he found a new home in a new land, and the echoes of the fading conflict found him a citizen of Texas, ready to build up his fortunes and to link his fate with hers in the dismal days of reconstruction.

Living at first in eastern Texas, he came in 1870 to Dallas, where for the next thirty years he wrought out his successful and honored life among the thrifty and ambitious people of that metropolitan city and county. There was no honor that his people did not freely bestow upon him—there was no labor that he did not willingly perform for them; and so he lived and labored in a congenial atmosphere of generous and grateful appreciation by the citizens whom he so often and so signally served. It would be useless to reiterate here the many acts of personal and private kindness that endeared him to the people

among whom he lived and who have not ceased to mourn his death. They are canonized among the sacred recollections of his neighbors and friends.

It would be equally fruitless to recall the many services he rendered his constituents in the various capacities in which he served them. They are recorded in the annals of his State's and his country's history. We to-day come to commemorate his virtues, to speak kindly and affectionately of his memory, and to send out to his people and to all those who value the recognition of merit and nobility a testimony of our enduring regard for a well-spent and virtuous life. It has been said that "Genius can mold no marble so speaking as the place where a brave man labored or the spot where a good man died." If this is true, then this Hall ought to be the perpetual memorial of such men as the one whose death we to-day lament, as their own homes will unceasingly bear witness to the irreparable loss of their presence and influence.

ADDRESS OF MR. LOUD, OF CALIFORNIA.

Mr. SPEAKER: Eulogies, as they seem to me, have followed so near the line of flattery that in the past I have refrained from taking part in such as have been presented; but the truth at this time is not flattery, although during the lifetime of a person it is not well at all times even to speak the whole truth.

The late Mr. BURKE became a member of this body in the Fifty-fifth Congress, and was assigned to the committee of which I had the honor to be chairman. In the past I have watched men come to Congress, remain a while, and retire again to private life without even having left a lasting mark upon the country or in this body; but Mr. BURKE almost from the very moment he entered this House became a prominent figure.

As a member of the Committee on the Post-Office and Post-Roads, soon after he had been assigned to that committee, he was selected, together with Judge McPherson, Mr. Bromwell, and myself, to revise and codify the postal laws, both civil and criminal. Those laws had not been revised for more than a half of a century. The work demanded the almost undivided attention of the members of the subcommittee for more than four months during the long session and nearly thirty days during the short session. And I wish to speak of him as I knew him on the floor and as I knew him in the committee—an honest, fearless, patient, intelligent, faithful worker, not alone for the interests of his district or his State, but for the whole country at large. His mind was so broad that it knew no North or South, East or West. His impulses and acts were for the betterment of the whole country. I have in

days gone by segregated legislators and denominated some as local legislators and others as national legislators.

Of the latter class, Mr. BURKE was in the foremost rank. The local legislators to whom I refer, and we have many—and they should not be condemned, because they are necessary—look to the interests of their districts first and, in many cases, the country afterwards. Mr. BURKE kept in view at all times his duty as a national legislator—looked first to the interests of the country and next to the interests of his own particular locality.

During the consideration of this bill of more than 225 printed pages, to which I have referred, which occupied the time of this House eight or nine days, divided as it was, covering a period of nearly three weeks—then in failing health and a constant sufferer, he was here in his place, across the aisle from where I now stand, having the confidence not alone of his own side of the House, but the confidence of this whole body. His voice and his influence there were felt in such a degree that that bill came out of this House with no amendment of any importance whatever.

It was said in my presence—what I have never repeated before, but what his family, his friends, and the people in his district have a right to know—that our lamented President, William McKinley, took occasion to highly commend Mr. BURKE for the faithful and efficient work he had performed in connection with that legislation, and that he deserved well of his country.

Words that I shall speak are not flattery. The citizens of his district have lost a man that it would be almost impossible to replace. The country has suffered in the loss of Mr. BURKE as great a loss as it has suffered for many years.

Address of Mr. McCleary, of Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker: I can not tell you how shocked I was less than two weeks ago to learn for the first time that Mr. Burke was dead. Out of the country at the time of his death, I had not heard of it. Since I learned of his death I have had no opportunity to make suitable preparation to speak of him, and yet I can not allow this opportunity to pass by without saying at least a few words.

I did not know our friend in his home relations; I did not have the honor of serving with him on any committee, and, therefore, I speak as one who learned of him, as most of us learned of him, by seeing him performing his duties here upon the floor of this House. As my friend from California [Mr. Loud] has said, Mr. Burke came to this House in the Fifty-fifth Congress. Before he had been here long I noted his expressions on the floor. My first thought of him was, there is a man who has opinions; he is a thoughtful man; he comes to his conclusions after due deliberation; he thinks as a judge thinks; he talks as a judge talks.

Mr. Burke had a happy way of expressing his thought; he spoke with deliberation; he evidently thought along straight lines. His judgments were clear, as were the expressions of them. I noted especially the courtesy of the treatment which he always accorded to those who differed with him. He realized, that it is no easy task to come to a righteous conclusion on any subject. He realized that we see things from different standpoints, and that in many matters there is room for honest difference of opinion.

In the tones of his voice, in the framing of his sentences, you always felt there was a man whose own opinions were honestly held, and who could realize that a person who differed with him was just as honest and just as capable of forming an opinion. Incapable of double dealing himself, he seemed always to expect and almost always to receive from those with whom he differed frankness in expression. I honored him; I miss him; I mourn him.

ADDRESS OF MR. COOPER, OF TEXAS.

Mr. SPEAKER: Of the many illustrious men who have represented Texas upon this floor, none brought to the discharge of his high duties a loftier conception of the right, cleaner hands, purer patriotism, or a stronger and more patient diligence than did ROBERT EMMET BURKE. What he did was done honestly, according to high conception of duty and with painstaking thoroughness. And it was in this manner that he discharged his duties to his God, his family, and his country from the moment he shouldered his musket in 1863, in defense of the Confederacy, until that fateful moment in the early dawn of a Texas June day when he closed his eyes forever upon the scenes of this world.

It is not necessary to relate here his career in the army of the South. Perhaps nothing should be said further than that he volunteered as a private when a beardless boy and served in the ranks with the devotion, zeal, courage, and self-sacrifice which have immortalized the soldiery of the Confederacy. He entered the army in 1863, and followed his country's flag until it was furled forever, and its people's hopes were dead. In the year succeeding the war he joined the ranks of thousands of his former comrades and moved to Texas, where, under the new conditions afforded by a new State, he commenced his life anew. At this time he was but 19 years of age, and all that he carried with him was a good character, a willingness to work, and an ambition to make something of himself, and this was an equipment that could not fail; it has never failed, and never will.

The war had seriously interfered with his education, and the first years of his residence in Texas were devoted to work by day and study at night. With lofty aims in view, he was steadfast and true at a time when there were many temptations to swerve a young man from the paths of rectitude. It was not long before he attracted the attention of the best people of Jefferson, his new home, and he was recognized by all as a sturdy, diligent, honest, self-respecting young man. He was admitted to the bar in November, 1870, and the following year moved to Dallas.

His exemplary life, recognized legal ability, and amiable personality brought him to the front rapidly, and in 1878 he was elected county judge, to which position he was twice reelected. In 1888 he was elected district judge, and served in this capacity for eight years, and was then elected Representative from the Dallas district to the Fifty-fifth Congress, and was reelected in 1898, and again in 1900.

I mention these facts to show how thoroughly he enjoyed the confidence of the people among whom he lived. That he deserved this confidence, a life of virtue, temperance, fidelity, and conscientious devotion to the public welfare is ample proof.

As a member of this body he achieved all for his people and his country consistent with the opportunities which were afforded him, and it may be said that in every public capacity in which he served his achievement came well up to limits of his opportunity. Those who served with him on committees well remember how diligent he was, how well he bore his responsibilities, and how loyal he was to the interests confided to him. On the floor of the House he was a patient investigator, a ready debater, and at all times a loyal and knightly champion of the principles for which he stood. In all the rela-

tions of private and public life he did his duty nobly and left the rest to God.

During the second session of the Fifty-sixth Congress his health failed him, but he clung to his duty until the session's end. Even through days and nights of illness, sometimes of intense pain, he wearied not, for he was looking hopefully to his return home to his loved ones and friends, and was confident that the balmy breezes and gentle sunshine of his beloved State would bring the healing for which he longed. He wanted to live, and surely there was every incentive to a love for life. He was in the prime of life, and around him a loving wife, two sturdy sons grown to manhood, and a daughter just budding into womanhood. He was never more firmly intrenched in the confidence and affections of his people. There was much work he wanted to do for his country and his State, and he had in process plans of great moment to the people who had honored him.

But it was not to be. He returned to Texas to find the fields radiant with the flowers of spring and the perfumed zephyrs vibrant with the music of the birds. No wonder he felt that those cloudless days and nights would bring him health. But he steadily declined until the fears of anxious loved ones became painful, and soon came a physical collapse which portended the gravest consequences. Then it was that the love of a great people enveloped the cottage wherein he suffered and thousands of hearts poured out their earnest prayers for his life.

God knew best. In the dim and misty hours of the morning, while the world was hushed in slumber, under the shadows of a starlit sky, God whispered, and the soul of ROBERT EMMET BURKE joined the great majority. With a serene and all-sufficient faith in the promises of his Redeemer

he laid aside the burdens of this world, its affections, its hopes, and its ambitions, and obeyed the summons of his Maker.

In the broad and loving bosom of the majestic Commonwealth of Texas repose the ashes of many noble and gallant sons—men who have enriched the history of all humanity for all time with their splendid achievements. Texas herself is a monument to the deeds of a great and noble people. While ROBERT EMMET BURKE may not have equaled in many respects the accomplishments of men like Houston, Austin, Crockett, Travis, and a host of patriots whose names are immortalized forever, he performed every duty confided to him with loyal devotion to the people of his State and country; and in his personal contact with his fellow-men he gave the loftiest example of husband, father, and citizen. Tenderly the State he loved so well received his dust to her bosom, and gratefully will the people remember his honest, useful, and gentle life.

ADDRESS OF MR. SPERRY, OF CONNECTICUT.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have set apart this day to commemorate the life of ROBERT EMMET BURKE, and I wish to pay a brief but sincere tribute to his memory. Others who knew him more intimately than I have pronounced his eulogy and described his career.

My acquaintance with him did not extend over any great length of time. I simply knew him as a fellow-member of Congress, a coworker on the same committee and on the floor of this House. But, short as this acquaintance was, I learned to love and respect him for his sterling uprightness, his devotion to duty and what he believed to be right. His word was as good as his bond. He was courteous to all, and he never turned a deaf ear to a worthy appeal. He represented the true type of a Southern gentleman—gracious, open-hearted, generous, the kind of a man who makes friends and holds them.

Mr. BURKE came to Congress with the indorsement of his people and with a reputation gained in the faithful service rendered in many official positions. For three consecutive terms the people of Dallas County chose him as their county judge, and such was his judicial record that he was elected district judge of his State and reelected, the second time without opposition. During the two terms he was a member of Congress he proved the wisdom of his people in electing him to this House. No favor was too slight for him to grant, if possible; no constituent of his appealed to him in vain. Rich

and poor, great and small, all were treated with that kind consideration and gentle courtesy which were so characteristic of the man. He performed the duties of a member of this House not grudgingly, but with a willing heart and with faithful devotion to his people.

In the deliberations of the committee of which we were both members his advice was always welcome. He proved himself a fair and broad-minded legislator who ever tried to do his duty as he saw it, and feared not to state his position upon the questions of the day. To him everything that was false, everything that savored of a sham, was distasteful, and when he spoke his voice had the true ring of a truthful, fearless man who knew his own mind and dared to speak it.

In the daily routine life of a legislator, so full of disappointments, or petty annoyances, we delight in the hearty grasp of the honest hand of a friend. To find a sympathetic soul is like the breaking out of the sun on a cloudy morn. Such a man was ROBERT BURKE. "His song was of love," of integrity; his master chords were manhood and brotherhood. If there were any discords in his life, "they were mere interludes between the lines."

In the death of Mr. BURKE the House lost a valued member and the South one of its noblest sons. My heart went out toward him, and I esteemed him as a friend. The memory of that friendship, of our pleasant associations in this House, will ever remain a bright page in the book of my life. His public career stands boldly out, and we who are left behind can do no less than honor the memory of such a man as ROBERT EMMET BURKE and hand down to posterity our appreciation of him as a friend and associate.

He sleeps peacefully in the land of his adopted State. His memory is loved and honored by all who knew him. The

spotless character he has left behind stands out as a lasting monument of fame for others to follow.

The welcome angel came
  Ere yet his eye with age was dim,
Or bent his stately frame;
  His weapon still was bright,
His shield was lifted high
  To slay the wrong, to save the right.

Address of Mr. Kleberg, of Texas.

Mr. Speaker: When Robert Emmet Burke, late a Representative from the State of Texas, died at his home in Dallas, Tex., on the 5th of June, 1901, the nation, the State, the Sixth Congressional district, and the county of Dallas, Tex., lost the services of one of the most faithful and useful men in public life. His many years on the bench of the county and district courts had stamped him as a fair and upright judge, who, by reason of his lofty sense of justice, had made himself not only invincible before the electors of his county and district, but who had won the respect and approbation of the bench and bar throughout the State of Texas.

He was not technical, but broad and just in his rulings as a judge, and while he was not at all times sustained by the higher courts (and what judge is?) in his decisions on law points, he never could be justly criticised for not reaching for the equity of the case in every instance. He rather clung to the spirit than the letter of the law and aimed always to do substantial justice, and no litigant who came into his court with clean hands ever had a right to complain at the motive of his judgments, and no one, whether friend or foe, can justly say that he ever swerved from the path of right and duty as he saw it. This is all the best and the purest can do who wear the judicial ermine, and it is after all the highest encomium that can be paid a judge on the bench.

No wonder that on account of his faithful services as a nisi prius judge the people of the Sixth Congressional district intrusted him with the wider and more varied duties of a Rep-

resentative in the American Congress. They did not misplace their confidence, for not only did he bring to his new sphere of action his rugged honesty, his good common sense, his industry, and his unerring judgment of men, but he displayed an aptitude and natural ease to acquaint himself with public men and measures which at once inspired confidence in the National Legislature and pushed him to the front as a painstaking, reliable, and successful representative of the people. In his committees he was appreciated and justly classed by his associates as a wise counselor and an indefatigable worker, frank, honest, industrious, and practical, and when the bills which his committees reported to the House were taken up for consideration in the Committee of the Whole House there was not a member on his committees who inspired greater confidence, who could more readily and lucidly discuss these measures in debate, or who evinced a fuller grasp of the questions at issue than he.

Not only would he give every bill in his committees careful consideration and insist on a clear explanation of all its features, but he would not rest until he had mastered the subject fully himself, and he possessed the happy faculty of explaining and imparting his understanding to others. In the House he was tactful and resourceful in debate, and his aim was always to enlighten and help along the side of a question which he espoused rather than simply to appear conspicuous in debate. He was modest and courteous almost to a fault, and yet he never permitted this modesty to deter him from speaking out in forceful terms when duty required. He was incessantly at his post of duty and never shirked recording his vote on the side of right as he saw it and as his conscience dictated. True to the tenets of his party, he was above small party tactics and was fearless and independent in word and action in the highest patriotic sense.

His views on the great questions of the day were broad and liberal and always thoroughly American and democratic, and while he may not always have exhibited the tact of the politician, he always showed the courage and strong common sense of the statesman. He was true as the needle to the pole to the interests of his constituents, and he shunned neither work nor personal discomfort to serve them in and out of season. He stood well among all the members of this great legislative body, regardless of party lines, and had the full confidence of them all. With such favorable surroundings, together with such rare traits of character and natural capacity and adaptability for Congressional work, it is clear that he was eminently successful and that he gave promise of ranking with the best and most useful men the great State of Texas has ever sent to the Congress of the United States.

But when all this and more has been said of him as a public servant, there remains to be said that which is still a higher encomium of his worth, and that is that in the private walks of life he shone as an exemplar. Never could a man, woman, or child, the rich or the poor, the high or the low, who enjoyed his friendship have a more loyal friend. His nature was impervious to either guile, malice, or deceit; he was true as steel. No enemy (and every good man has them) could point his finger to BURKE and justly say that he ever dealt him an unfair or much less a foul blow. BURKE was not only a Chesterfield in manner, but a Navarre in action. In the fierce battles of the forum he did not stoop to little things or to the use of the shafts of slander, but he hit straight from the shoulder and bore himself with knightly courage toward his adversary.

His lance never made a cowardly thrust, nor did there rest a blotch on either his shield or armor. His loyalty as a friend was as sincere as that of a child; he trusted and could be

trusted in return. His companionship was as chaste and genial as that of a good woman; his conversation, manner, and conduct full of good cheer, hope, and kindness. His aims and aspirations were lofty, his motives pure, his integrity incorruptible, his convictions true. He loved truth and practiced it in his everyday life; he was generous and forgiving to a fault and abhorred sham and hypocrisy.

Devoted to the partner of his bosom, his children, and his home, he was withal a consistent Christian gentleman, who practiced what he preached—the Golden Rule. Not only is he mourned in grand old Texas, and by every member of the Texas delegation, but by the members of this great body. His name and fame extend far beyond the confines of the Lone Star State, which he loved and so ably represented in part on this floor, and they will endure and live as long as the good deeds of a noble, useful, and blameless life lie treasured in the hearts and are recorded in the history of the American people.

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ADDRESS OF MR. CLAYTON, OF ALABAMA.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not more than a just estimate to say that ROBERT E. BURKE was an able lawyer, an upright citizen, a faithful Representative, and a Southern gentleman. Moreover, if other words may be necessary for the whole truth, he at all times showed good will toward his fellow-man and an abiding faith in the wisdom, justice, and mercy of the Heavenly Father.

The good servant has performed faithfully the life task set for him and has gone from amongst us—the Master has called him. Human hearts sorrow and human tears fall, for the mortality has been planted in the dust in order that, through the resurrection, immortality may bloom and fruit and bloom and fruit again and without end in that hereafter which we truthfully and lovingly call Heaven.

"To lie in cold obstruction and to rot" is not the end of just men who have served and pleased God. The sublime love of Him who maketh not for the purpose of destroying has sent the Christ who reaches down his hand beneath the dust and marble covering and lifteth up those who have departed in his faith and favor. This is, this must be, the consoling truth for men who grieve and women who weep and also grieve. Say not to the agonized, "I know not." Rather say, "Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief." Materialism may challenge Christianity to combat, but the weapon of the first is "of the earth earthy," and the sword of the latter is the everlasting truth, fighting for the soul of man. He that can say "I know that my Redeemer liveth"

is comforted and enjoys the blessings of truth and of a philosophy both sublime and divine.

It is not for the benefit of the dead we pay respect to his memory. What men now say can not harm him nor add to his happiness, for he sleeps and hears us not. We would stand appalled in the presence of death if we could not answer the question, "If a man die, shall he live again?" "I am the resurrection and the life," said the Saviour; "whomsoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

It is for the benefit of the living and those to come hereafter that we commemorate the virtues of the distinguished dead. Here we present the history, the example, of a good man, and from it we learn that industry, honesty, fidelity, and capacity are appreciated while embodied in the living, and that those virtues blossom in the dust, and that on account of them the name of our distinguished friend has become a part of the records of our country.

I came into Congress with Judge BURKE at the memorable extraordinary session of 1897. Very soon I learned to know him as a friend and as an industrious and careful legislator. Often in private conversation he would dwell with pride and pleasure upon his boyhood and early manhood, spent in his native Alabama. As the son loveth his mother, he cherished an abiding affection for the State of his birth—a State, as his worthy successor has beautifully and truthfully told us, that has contributed more than any other State of the Union in great names to Texas history. Permit me, while paying tribute to this distinguished man, Alabamian first and Texan by adoption, to acknowledge the compliment paid to the dead sons of my Commonwealth.

Perhaps I ought to forbear to praise the living. It, however, does no violence to propriety, even on this melancholy occasion, to refer to the senior Senator from Texas, Mr. Charles

A. Culberson, and to Mr. Sheppard, the present Representative from the Fourth district of Texas—a district that has been represented here for twenty-six years by former Alabamians. It sent here from 1876 to 1896 Hon. David B. Culberson, who, though born in Georgia, was reared from infancy in Alabama; after him next came the late John B. Cranford, born in Clarke County, Ala., and then came the present incumbent. To me it is an interesting fact that these men and Judge BURKE, all of the full stature of American manhood, went, with the exception of Mr. Cranford, from the hills of east Alabama—Tallapoosa and Chambers counties—and all, with the exception of Judge Culberson, were natives of Alabama. Perhaps I may be pardoned for mentioning another great Alabamian, distinguished, and living in Texas—George Clark, of Waco—who went there as a young lawyer from his native county of Greene, in Alabama, and who is at once an ornament and a foremost member of the bar of Texas, and whose legal learning adorns the judicial history of the State of his adoption.

But it is of the distinguished dead I purposed to speak—of that part of Alabama's rich gift to the history of Texas. A roll call of the great men whose deeds and names enter so largely into the history of Texas would bring in review the lives and characters of many native sons of Alabama. Let me mention Patrick C. Jack, the leader of the first attempt at revolution, in 1832, and a famous orator and patriot; William H. Jack, his brother, and equally distinguished; Moseley Baker, a renowned soldier and statesman of the republic of Texas, and Sam Houston's bitterest enemy; Peter W. Grayson, a great judge, who served as chief justice of the supreme court of the republic of Texas, and afterwards of the State of Texas; Richard Ellis, president of the convention that declared Texan independence and framed the first constitution of that republic; R. R. Royal, chairman of the "Consultation" in 1835; Pendle-

ton Murrah, governor of that State from 1863 to 1865; A. J. Hamilton, provisional governor in 1866, and perhaps the unrivaled forensic orator in the annals of Texas, and who served in Congress in 1859; George F. Moore, chief justice of the supreme court, a profound jurist; Robert S. Gould, chief justice of the supreme court, and now a distinguished professor of law in the University of Texas. Add to these Abner S. Lipscomb, though born in South Carolina, was reared in Alabama, where he was at one time chief justice of the supreme court, and, after removal to Texas, was on the supreme court bench there for many years, and was one of the ablest of her judges. Let me not omit the name of Oran M. Roberts, who was born in South Carolina, but brought up in Alabama, and who saw his first official service as a member of the Alabama legislature; who went to Texas in 1841, and was there chief justice for sixteen years, and was at one time United States Senator, and twice governor.

I could call the names of many other Alabamians who have added luster to the history of Texas, but those that I have mentioned serve to amply illustrate the truth of Alabama's contribution of great names to Texas history. The life, character, and public service of Judge BURKE furnish another name to the long list of patriotic Alabamians who gave their lives and dedicated their best energies to the development and advancement of Texas—a great State, indeed, and a magnificent and unequaled empire.

Our lamented friend and untiring coworker has gone. Heaven's benediction rest upon him. He has paid the last debt of nature. He has met the inevitable, and the inevitable is God's will. Peace be his, forever and forever.

Address of Mr. Lanham, of Texas.

Mr. Speaker: "Robert Emmet Burke, of Dallas, was born in Tallapoosa County, Ala., August 1, 1847; volunteered as a private in Company D, Tenth Georgia Cavalry, at the age of 16 and served until the close of the war; removed to Texas in 1866 and located at Jefferson; was admitted to the bar in November, 1870; located at his present home in 1871; was elected county judge in 1878, serving three consecutive terms; was elected district judge in 1888, and was reelected in 1892 without opposition; was elected to the Fifty-fifth Congress as a Democrat."

This is the brief and modest autobiographic statement prepared for the Congressional Directory when he first entered Congress, and in his own language shows the principal events in the history of my dead colleague. It is to be commended for its simplicity and entire absence of self-laudation, and is quite illustrative of the man he was. It tells when and where he was born, his connection as a boy soldier with the Confederate army, his removal to Texas, his admission to the bar, and the official positions he held in the State of his adoption. If nothing more were said, he has told enough of himself in this concise and unpretentious narration of the chief incidents in his career to attract attention and elicit the favorable comment of any considerate man who may read it. It is now left to us to add to this sketch of his life the sad words, "He died on the 5th of June, 1901," and to pay suitable tribute to his memory.

In the Southland it was something to be a Confederate soldier; it was much for a boy of 16 years to go forth to

battle in response to his country's call and in vindication of his convictions of duty; it was, later on in his civic experience, a hard task to equip himself under adverse conditions for the engagements of a noble profession; it was an honor to be called to the bench and exercise the jurisdiction of different courts, and it was a distinction to be chosen from the great district he so faithfully represented as a member of Congress. To say that he well and worthily discharged all the duties connected with the various services he has rendered is to affirm what all who knew him will readily indorse.

I knew Judge BURKE perhaps more intimately than anyone with whom he was associated in Congress. There are many things that drew him and me together. In many respects we had a community of experience and aspiration. The friendship between us was close. We understood and confided in each other. I know that he was loyal to his constituency and ever ready to promote their interests. There was a punctuality in his devotion to their demands and a promptness in his attendance upon the sessions of the House and a vigilance of its proceedings that attracted private and public notice. He not only looked after the local measures of his people, but was always attentive to the consideration of general legislation and resolute in the expression of his views on national questions.

He had many friends in Washington, both in official and private circles. His uniform courtesy and pleasant mannerism gave him an easy entry into any of the departments where official business called him, and the expressions of sorrow at his death by those whom he met in such relations are many and sincere. He made an impression that will not soon fade away.

Judge BURKE was a courageous man. He asserted his convictions with great positiveness, and when he reached a conclusion he was insistent and unwavering in its maintenance. I have frequently heard him declare that he would vote for or

against a proposition if no one else did. I do not think he could have been induced to do what he did not believe was right. He was a clean, pure, exemplary man, upright in his daily walk and conversation. He so demeaned himself that he was never in fear of any assaults upon or exposure of his modes of life. He conducted himself as became a gentleman and with that dignity that should mark a public representative. He eschewed all forms of dissipation. His standards and ideals of official deportment and personal excellence were lofty, and he lived up to them.

He was not what would be called a brilliant man, but he was reliable and trustworthy, careful to inform himself, and ready to go wherever his sense of duty led. There was nothing sensational in his composition. His was a steady, unostentatious, consistent course. He strove to be useful rather than showy, to accomplish results rather than to advertise himself. He coveted no undeserved approbation.

He was kindly, forgiving, and charitable in his disposition. He did not bear malice nor cherish resentment. He exemplified the graces of Christian character. He had—

> A heart within whose sacred cell
> The peaceful virtues loved to dwell;
> Affection warm and faith sincere
> And soft humanity were there.

During the last session of Congress in which he served it was apparent to his friends that his health was giving way. The decline became more evident and rapid after he returned to his home. He and his family and friends soon realized that he was not long for this world. A short while before his death, in making his last will and testament, he expressed his preparation to meet his God, and has left on record the solace to his loved ones that he was ready for the reward of the Christian. In his home, surrounded by a loving family and

sympathizing friends, he fell upon that sleep which knows no waking here, but from which he shall arise, refreshed and strengthened, in the great hereafter. With sorrowful hearts and solemn ceremonial we laid all that was mortal of him away in the cemetery of his beloved city to rest until the resurrection, feeling that in his death a loss irreparable had been sustained by his family, friends, constituency, and country.

It fills me with sadness and, in some degree, a sense of solitude when I recall how many of my friends and colleagues in the Texas delegations with whom I have served from first to last since I became a member of Congress have passed away. Coke and Maxey and Hancock and Throckmorton and Stewart and Crain and Cranford and Martin and Kilgore and Culberson and BURKE. I alone am here of those from my State who were in the Forty-eighth Congress. What a harvest the grim reaper has thus gathered! But the sickle will not stop with them nor cease its work of destruction. Only a little while and we shall all yield to its cruel stroke, and one by one the names of those now living will be added to the death roll. We should heed the admonitions of our mortality and get ourselves ready for that end which surely awaits us and which we are rapidly approaching. If we live right, we shall "die the death of the righteous," as did our lamented colleague, and it may be said of us as we can say of him:

How blest the righteous when he dies,
When sinks a weary soul to rest.
How mildly beam the closing eyes,
How gently heaves the expiring breast!
Life's duty done, as sinks the clay,
Light from its load the spirit flies,
While heaven and earth combine to say
How blest the righteous when he dies!

Address of Mr. Moon, of Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker: The roll has been called, but no response is made to the name of Robert Emmet Burke, of Texas. A chair is vacant and draped, and another voice is hushed in this great forum. The messenger of the Eternal has passed over the portals of the American House of Representatives. No tumultuous debate breaks the awful silence of the hour. Here partisan wrangle is ended and the conflicts of the living cease while these walls once again inclose the chamber of the dead. Texas weeps, and the Union sympathizes in her grief. One of her noblest sons has joined the "innumerable caravan in the great beyond."

When He who controls the destinies of men decrees the severance of the ties that bind families, kindred, and friends, and memory recalls the visage of loved ones gone, uniting them with the living in defiance of death, words can not speak the tender emotions that fill the pensive soul and hold it in holy communion with the Creator. Silence and tears are its language, solitude its retreat, and hope and faith in reunion in the immortal unknown its consolation.

When a strong man thus falls in the arena of public life his comrades in the service of the country do well to pause, to meditate, and to speak, that men may know by faithful portrayal the life and character of one who has justly earned the confidence and plaudits of his countrymen, and that the inspiration of such a life may, if it will, lead us in the ways of truth and justice to the achievement of the greatest blessings for mankind.

But fulsome eulogy is mockery of the dead, even as flattery is injustice to the living. If virtues are not to be forgotten, frailties are not to be buried in oblivion. Man is the heir of both, and error, oft intruding, discloses his weakness; yet, when great and good deeds dominate his nature, character becomes sublime and resplendent, as was demonstrated in the life of ROBERT E. BURKE.

Judge BURKE was born in Tallapoosa County, Ala., in August, 1847. At the age of 16 years he bared his young bosom—heaving with love of his native South—to the storm of ruthless war in resistance to the invader. He was a private soldier in Company D, Tenth Georgia Cavalry, and served until the close of the struggle between the States.

In 1866 he removed to Texas; was admitted to the bar in 1870; was elected county judge at Dallas in 1878 and twice reelected; was elected judge of the district court at Dallas in 1888 and reelected without opposition in 1892. He was elected to the Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth, and Fifty-seventh Congresses. His early education was necessarily neglected. He was a soldier while yet a child—a sentinel on duty in the morning of his youth—true, obedient, and faithful ever. He began the study of law, that greatest and most learned of all professions, without means, uneducated and poorly equipped for such a work, but Celtic blood flowed in the veins of his sound body to nurture his rugged intellect and fire the ambition of his impulsive heart.

Obstacles yielded to his energy, and an honorable professional career was open before him. He was a strong debater, a good lawyer, and a safe counselor. He quickly discerned the right, and faithfully plead the cause of justice. His administration of the high office of judge of the district court was to his friends and countrymen a source of profound pride and gratification, marked as it was by ability, conservatism, and a

rigid adherence to duty in the maintenance of law and order and the rights of citizenship. The verdict of his brethren at the bar is that he administered the law to the rich and the poor alike, without fear, favor, prejudice, or affection. He was able. He was firm. He was courageous. He loved truth and justice. He was sincere and honest. He knew the law. He loved his fellow-man. These are the essential qualifications of a great judge.

As a Representative in Congress he was wise in legislation and faithful in service, and possessed the highest conception of his duty. His trust in the people was abiding. He believed in the rights of man, and his devotion to republican institutions and constitutional government was supreme.

In the daily walks of life he was affectionate to his friends and considerate of all. He was kind, gentle, and sympathetic. His was a generous friendship that no cold medium knew. Nature made him a gentleman, and so taught him his affinities that he recognized all "kindred spirits." His was a beautiful life of duty to home, country, and God. In the full flower of manhood he falls to sleep in death to awake in eternity.

The dead are like the stars, by day
  Withdrawn from mortal eye
But not extinct, they hold their way
  In glory through the sky;
Spirits from bondage thus set free
  Vanish amidst immensity.
Where human thought like human sight
  Fails to pursue their trackless flight.

ADDRESS OF MR. SHEPPARD, OF TEXAS.

Mr. SPEAKER: This day has heretofore been set apart to pay tribute to the memory, life, and character of ROBERT EMMET BURKE, a former member of this body, who died at his home, in the city of Dallas, State of Texas, on the 5th day of June, 1901, surrounded by a devoted wife, affectionate and loving children, together with hosts of relatives and friends.

ROBERT EMMET BURKE was born in Tallapoosa County, Ala., August 1, 1847. At the tender age of 16 he joined the Confederate army as a private in Company D, Tenth Georgia Cavalry, and served until the close of the war. He removed to the State of Texas in 1866 and located at Jefferson. He married Miss Henderson, of Cass County, Tex., was admitted to the bar in November, 1870, removed to the city of Dallas in 1871, in which city he resided at the time of his death. He was elected county judge of Dallas County in 1887 and served three consecutive terms; was elected district judge in 1888, and was reelected in 1892 without opposition; was elected to the Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth, and Fifty-seventh Congresses by overwhelming majorities. Judge BURKE was an unflinching Democrat.

I never knew him intimately until I met him as a member of the Fifty-sixth Congress. I soon saw that he was a plain, unpretentious, bold, out-spoken, honest man, with the courage of his convictions. He was kind and gentle with his friends; he had a sweet temper and always made himself pleasant and agreeable. He was a strictly temperate man and was always at his post of duty. He was an agreeable, jovial, big-hearted,

big-souled, good man. I became very much attached to him. The world was made better by reason of his having lived in it. His devoted wife and three children, a daughter and two sons, survive him. May the great God of us all shield, guide, and protect them, and may his sons emulate his life and character is my sincere wish.

Judge BURKE was a consistent member of the Baptist Church at the date of his death, and had been for years prior thereto. I attended his funeral and heard the pastor of his church testify, in the presence of that large concourse of people that attended his funeral with bowed heads in deep sorrow, that he knew Judge BURKE intimately, and that he was by his bedside during his last illness, and that he had every reason to believe that all was well with Judge BURKE'S immortal spirit in the great beyond. What a consolation to his wife, children, and his friends.

Judge BURKE'S death should admonish us all "that in the midst of life we are in death."

ADDRESS OF MR. DE ARMOND, OF MISSOURI.

Mr. SPEAKER: Without preparation it is not easy to speak justly of the living or of the dead. Affection is a bad counselor when it comes to matters of judgment, and the spirit of criticism can be unjust quite as easily as just.

Of the man of whom we speak this afternoon it may be said truthfully, without flattery, and without exaggeration, that he possessed in a large degree the merits of mind and of heart which constitute the nobility of human kind. A brave man, he faced all difficulties and dangers without flinching. An honest man, he knowingly did wrong to no one. A conscientious man, he discharged to the best of his opportunity and ability every duty which presented itself. And that highest of tributes may truthfully be paid to him—he was a just judge.

How much is comprehended in this phrase! How easy it is for one in high judicial position to be swerved by passion or by prejudice to favor a friend or to bear down too hard upon a foe. The rectitude of this man, his integrity of purpose, his lofty disposition to seek the right and shun the wrong, won for him in a conspicuous career upon the bench that loftiest title known to the profession, that noblest of tributes found among men—he was a just judge.

In all the relations of life he was a true man—true to his convictions, true to duty as he saw it, in private life and in public life. He was a generous man. The needy never appealed to him, when he could render assistance, to be turned away bootless. The unfortunate found in him a friend, and when charity was called for the response was ready and liberal.

In the walks of private life, as well as in high station, he

met manfully the responsibilities which came upon him. As a statesman he was broad minded, diligent, and patriotic. Here he fulfilled the duties and requirements of life with a lofty spirit, with affectionate loyalty to the people at home, with a deep love for his country, and with an ardent desire to discharge his whole duty.

That he impressed himself favorably not only upon those who were his friends when he came here, but upon the indifferent and the casual, is in itself a high tribute to his inherent worth. Everybody recognized him as a serious-minded man with honest purposes. Everybody regarded him as planning and working true to his own convictions, determining for himself in such light as beat upon him and upon the questions with which he had to deal what the right was, and then pursuing the course of the right, unflinching, unswerved, unchangeable, whatever the end might be.

We are not speaking in the language of fulsome praise, we are not engaged in meaningless exaltation, when we attribute to this good, just, well-balanced, courageous man the virtues which he possessed. Nor are we indulging merely in platitudes when we express the regret which must be sincere for his early taking off. Had his life been spared there were many years of usefulness before him and for his country. He would have reached a high rank in the annals of his country's heroes in civil life had his years been lengthened sufficiently to enable him to work out that which he was capable of doing.

The name given him at the christening seems singularly appropriate. Himself of the sturdy Irish race that has given to the world so many illustrious examples of magnificent manhood and peerless womanhood, he was worthy of such ancestry; and the Christian name which was given to him, "Robert Emmet," the name of the noble Irish patriot and

martyr, was well borne by the courteous, generous, chivalric, magnanimous BURKE.

For my part, I never can be present on one of these occasions when eulogies are pronounced upon deceased members, I never can be at the portal of the grave, without finding my mind irresistibly drifting on the wings of sublime curiosity, in a hopeful trance, across into that shadowy realm which all of us must enter and from which none of us return.

Of course, this is no time for speculation upon these occult subjects. It is no time for a parading of the disclosures of Revelation. And yet we may wonder whether the soul of our friend, enfranchised, is now felicitating and expanding in a brighter and more gorgeous realm, far, far away—immeasurably distant from us—or whether he lives and grows close by, his spirit, now freed from the clogs of earth, hovering about us and lending us encouragement and inspiration.

In the great advances of science is it possible that some time—not in our day, but in the days of our children, or in the more distant years to come—the exact location of the soul in the human body will be found; that the analysis of that which has escaped all analyses heretofore, outside of the Divine laboratory, may be made; that human beings may understand as never they understood before, and that revelation may come to the individual and through the individual, as now it only comes drifting down with the current of the ages and from the Sacred Book. Of these things we know not; but it is a comforting thought, it is an exalting aspiration, that the spirits of the good, who have striven here upon the earth and have scattered blessings as they went through this life, do find and must find an existence far grander and greater in the immeasurable world, in the limitless time expanded into eternity, beyond the portals of the grave, over which now we drop, humbly and reverently, our tribute of respect.

ADDRESS OF MR. BALL, OF TEXAS.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is with some diffidence that, without other preparation than personal knowledge of his character, I attempt to pay tribute to the memory of my deceased friend, Judge ROBERT EMMET BURKE. I feel that it would be impossible for me, with patient care and thoughtful chosen language, to do justice to his memory, and yet I would not do myself justice, knowing him as I did, enjoying his friendship during his life, and cherishing his memory now that he has gone to his last rest, if I failed in this presence to say at least a few words, expressing, however feebly, that which my heart fain would voice.

Judge BURKE was a native of that splendid Commonwealth, Alabama, a State which has enriched the history of Texas by the aid of her pioneers in the settlement of the then Mexican province, by the deeds of her heroic sons upon battlefields for the independence of Texas, and whose citizens have woven their history into our jurisprudence and civil life in the upbuilding of our beloved State of Texas. At the age of 16 Judge BURKE enlisted as a private soldier in the Confederate army.

He was not a general, not a colonel; he held no rank, but he belonged to that great body of the soldiers of the Confederacy who stand to-day in history as the concrete expression of the sublimest words in the English language—duty, service, and sacrifice.

Their deeds and his are not of individual record in the annals of war, as are the deeds of those in command.

Their fame is rather like the Milky Way, which tracks its uminous path athwart the spacious heavens, whose untold

myriads of stars by their individual brightness obscure each other's light, and yet blended each in all create the magnificent arch whose soft nebulous brightness stands out with more than planetary beauty, a wonderful and glorious whole.

While history may be silent as to his soldierly deeds, knowing him we know that as a private soldier he well discharged his duty in camp, upon the march, and in "the red blaze of battle," for fidelity to every trust was his watchword through life. No sick or wounded comrade was denied his ministering care, for charity and goodness of heart were his crowning characteristics, and the Good Samaritan was not more ready and thoughtful than was he.

If "Kind hearts are more than coronets," if doing good things to mankind as we go along the journey of life are to be laid up in that "mansion eternal in the heavens," then the numberless kind words and gracious deeds with which our friend gladdened so many hearts must long ago have blossomed into flowers of beauty to garland the rock of ages.

Judge BURKE was a plain man of the people—sometimes called the common people. He was one of them; he loved them; he knew them in his and their daily life; his sympathies were with them; not as that pretended sympathy which goes out from the demagogue who seeks to deceive the people for his own ulterior purpose, but as one of whom it can be said above all other things that he loved his fellow-man. His constituents knew it, and consequently when he offered for political preferment at their hands he was invincible before the people, who loved and trusted him. He was a devout and earnest Christian man; not one who went about "striking himself upon the breast and thanking God that he was not as other men," not the "holier than thou" kind, for his religion was never obtrusive. He did not go about as a mentor, to rebuke or to criticise those whose conduct was not such as he perhaps

would approve; but by kind words of counsel, by the influence of his own example, he went about doing good among his fellow-men, and increased the respect and reverence for the holy gospel which he professed, simply by the silent forcefulness of his own personal example.

It was my good fortune when Judge BURKE and myself entered Congress at the same time to live under the same roof with him for months, and to learn to know him as he was. No man ever came to Congress who was more faithful to his constituents, not only in the greater field of activities in national life, but in the little things that go to make up the sum of the duties of a member of this body. There was not a constituent in his district so humble, there was not a widow that was so poor, there was no pensioner from the Army against which he fought that had so little influence but that he or she could command the service of Judge BURKE at all times and in all honorable ways. He did not leave it to his private secretary to transact the business of his constituents with the Government departments, but went in person; and I have no doubt during his service in Congress he gave a greater portion of his time to the details which his position imposed upon him than almost any member of Congress for a similar period of time.

I will not enlarge upon my personal regard. I do not desire to be fulsome. Modest in his character and in his disposition, I know that if our dead friend could look down upon us to-day he would far rather that we did him less than justice than say anything that might savor of fulsome or unmerited praise. It can not be said of him, the sentence can not be passed upon him, that "he knew his duty and did it not." But it can be truthfully said that as a citizen, as a soldier, as a judge in the disputes of others, as a member of Congress, as father, as husband, and as friend, that everywhere and at all times

Judge BURKE did his full duty as he saw it, and he did it with all the zeal and ability which he possessed. That he should have been cut off in the very flower of his usefulness, to our finite minds is unaccountable; but it is not ours to question the ways of Providence or to say that a man in the zenith of his career should not be taken away. He had no dread of death. Sustained by the principles of the Christian religion, having an experimental knowledge of the value of the Golden Rule and the Sermon on the Mount by faith and practice during his life, the shadows of death did not appall him.

From the presence of his devoted wife and children he could look out with larger vision and go before, conscious that—

> Death is another life; we bow our heads
> At going out; we think, and enter straight
> Another golden chamber of the King's,
> Larger than this we leave, and lovelier.

Address of Mr. Stephens, of Texas.

Mr. Speaker: When Judge Burke, my fellow-member of this House, my friend and comrade, died, this House lost a conspicuous and able member. Robert Emmet Burke's devotion to his family, his clean and upright character, his industry and public spirit, made him the idol of his Congressional district, and his services here were greatly appreciated and generally approved by them.

Mr. Burke was a kind, tender-hearted man. Well do I remember how tenderly he watched by the bedside of one of our fellow-members from Texas, the noble, brilliant, and generous John W. Cranford, who, after a long illness, died in a hospital in this city during the Fifty-fifth Congress. We often visited our stricken comrade together and ministered in every way possible to his wants, but he sank rapidly until his spirit departed; and it was during these trying hours that I learned more than ever before to love and respect Mr. Burke.

Little did I think that my kind, noble, generous friend Burke would be the next one of our delegation to fall asleep and pass serenely into rest on the other shore of that mysterious sea that never yet bore on any wave the images of a homeward sail. But he is dead.

> He gave his honors to the world again,
> His blessed part to heaven, and slept in peace.

To us it is incomprehensible why death claimed this kind husband, good father, and generous friend just at a time when he was serving his country so well and faithfully, when he was in the prime of his mature manhood, and in the midst of gratifying achievements for his constituents.

Man's finite mind can not fathom these mysteries. Man indeed proposes, but God alone disposes; and we shall know nothing of the mysteries of death or why our friends and loved ones are taken from us until the Divine Hand shall have withdrawn the veil which shields the portals of heaven from mortal gaze.

We deeply sympathize with the bereaved family of our departed friend, and we hope that the consolation of his religious faith and the healing balm of time will soon bridge the gulf of sorrow caused by the death of the husband and father. His was a noble Christian character, and his life should be studied and emulated by his sons, and by all of the young men who knew him. To know him was to appreciate him, and those who knew him best appreciated him most.

Whether we view R. E. BURKE as a poor young man struggling to educate himself, or as a soldier of the lost cause fighting for his beloved South, or as a briefless young lawyer striving to build up a practice, or as a judge on the bench dispensing justice and equity to his fellow-men, or as a statesman representing his district in Congress, we always, under all circumstances and conditions, find him the same honest, noble-hearted Christian gentleman. To the young and rising generation he has been a living example of what can be accomplished by a poor boy under the most adverse circumstances. He has taught them by example that—

> Honor and shame from no condition rise;
> Act well your part, there all the honor lies.

Address of Mr. Driscoll, of New York.

Mr. Speaker: On this occasion, when the friends of the departed, gathered around his spiritual bier, are commemorating his life and character, permit me, to add my humble tribute of respect and regard to the many sincere and eloquent testimonials which have been offered. Those of you who knew him well in his social and domestic life; those of you from his own State with whom he labored in constructing the laws and developing the resources of that great and promising Commonwealth; those of you, perhaps, with whom he marched and bivouacked, fought and suffered throughout the terrible conflict of the civil war, can speak with knowledge and appreciation of his trials and vicissitudes, his joys and sorrows, his efforts and achievements.

My association with him was comparatively brief, but around that association are clustered many pleasant recollections. He was born and reared in the South, I in the North. We first met two years ago as members of the Elections Committee. His genial disposition first impressed me, and our informal acquaintance soon developed into friendship. Without obtrusiveness or tendency to display his attainments, I gradually learned to esteem him as a man and admire him as a lawyer and legislator. His manners were gentle, quiet, and unassuming. His heart was warm, affectionate, and generous. His character was sensitive, refined, and pure. He was not forward or aggressive in a place where push and self-assertion seemed to count for much. While he was a man of clear views and decided convictions, in defense of which he was always prepared, and was not disposed to compromise with what he

considered wrong, yet he recognized the right in others to entertain contrary opinions and gave them credit for honesty of heart and sincerity of purpose.

From natural bent and long experience on the bench, his mind was well poised. It was judicial rather than forensic. His style was logical rather than rhetorical. He took his position and hewed to the line. He was not disposed to do violence to the facts or his own judgment in order that he might create a sensation or turn a gracefully rounded period. He loved Texas, as all Texans do. In season and out of season he espoused its cause and earnestly and loyally championed the interests of his constituents. He impressed me as serious and rather old in manners beyond his years. Possibly ill health and a warning of approaching disease affected his disposition. He died many years before the allotted time, in the midst of a career of activity and usefulness. In the decease of ROBERT EMMET BURKE his State lost one of its most prudent, faithful, honorable citizens, his country one of its most capable, reliable, and honest legislators.

Address of Mr. Bell, of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker: Never, during my ten years' service here, have we returned and reopened this House without meeting a somber gloom, caused by some seat being muffled with crape, nor without having the opening prayer saddened by the Chaplain's lamenting the recurrence of fatalities to some one elected to these seats.

How strange that the reaper so often drops his sickle where least expected and garners the unripe stalks and leaves the maturer ones standing.

How many of us would have eagerly changed the chances of longevity with the deceased when we last separated.

Judge Robert Emmet Burke was of that equable, judicial, conservative temperament, ever striving to reduce everything around him to a complete equilibrium, and was ever seeking to move in complete harmony with natural laws, and yet he untimely falls upon the way, while the less vigilant contravenors of the harmonious laws of their being recklessly and defiantly pass on unscathed.

The vicissitudes and accidents of nature are as uncertain and as "erratic as the phantasm of a morning dream."

No one has an assurance of one additional moment here. A mite from an atom of cheese, an invisible mote floating in a sun ray, may strike down the young or the old, the pigmy or the giant, with apparently equal ease.

If the spirit of man, that matchless preserver, in fact, the only embalming fluid that can preserve life and action in this ephemeral body, does, when released, join the forces of nature, and goes on performing the high functions for which

it qualified itself when in the body, then we know that of the lamented Judge BURKE will be among the most exalted of this unknown realm.

His every act here was directed toward the amelioration of the hard conditions of his fellow-citizens, whether in his active conduct in legislation or measured by his deportment toward employee and associate, whether in high or low position.

His quiet and dignified deportment here begot for him a like deferential treatment from all, from the Speaker of the House to the bootblack in the toilet room.

The classifier of men would attribute him to the best type of what is known as the judicial temperament. This is but a brief way of saying that he was unselfish; that he was void of a blinding prejudice; that he could see and detect good or evil equally in friend or foe; that he took the Golden Rule as the measure of his course of action. Such exemplary characters as the deceased leave a void that is indeed difficult to fill and always sorely lamented.

Address of Mr. Wiley, of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker: If there be one privilege dearer to us than the rest it is to do honor to the dead; to wreathe a bright chaplet about the broken urn as a tender expression of that sympathy too delicate for human utterance.

Death has invaded our ranks so often that scarcely a session of Congress convenes we are not called upon to render funeral honors to some one of our body.

How true it is that "One by one the heavy laden sink beneath the noon-tide sun;" one by one we step smiling into the ferryboat which is to carry us, as we vainly think, for a little while across the narrow river; one by one we waive our hands and say to those who watch us from the familiar shore, "To-morrow." But alas! alas! before we are even aware of it, the shore is out of sight, the stream is a sea, the ferryboat is the boat of Death, and "to-morrow" is Eternity.

Solon, the Athenian lawgiver, is said to have offended Crœsus, the munificent Lydian King, by telling him to "count no man happy who had not seen the end of life," and his reason was that it was impossible to form any correct estimate of another's character until after his death. Now that Robert Emmet Burke is no more, we can appreciate his many virtues and contemplate with something like certainty what "manner of man" he was.

It is natural that the death of one so highly respected should cause profound sorrow in our hearts. We feel proud to claim him as an Alabamian. He was born upon the soil of my native State. He loved his home and the people amongst whom he

lived and toiled in his boyhood days, and they in turn appreciated his warm-hearted, generous, and manly nature. He had the courage of his convictions and the heroism to perform his duty even before he attained to man's estate.

While yet in his teens, a mere stripling, he went forth to the bloody fields of war, in obedience to the sovereign command of his native State, under a glorious leadership, and 'neath "the stars and bars" wearing the proud title of a Confederate soldier, he was ready, if needs be, to go down for God and country into the dark valley of death. As long as the Southern cross gleamed out amid the wild light of battle he fought bravely for "Dixie." Returning to his desolated home when that fratricidal conflict was ended, he found the wolf of hunger and want standing on the doorstep, and devastation on every hand. With ruin staring him in the face he left Alabama and removed to Texas, where conditions were more favorable, to begin anew the struggle of life. Service in the Confederate army having deprived him of early educational advantages, far away from home and kindred and friends, "a stranger in a strange land," he was compelled, in the first instance, and as a necessary preliminary, to seek knowledge and mental discipline in order to equip and fit him for his chosen profession—the law. Genial, brave, loyal, and true, it is no marvel that he soon won the confidence and esteem of his newly formed neighbors and friends.

It is a Talmudic maxim that there are four crowns with which mortals can be invested. The crown of the king, which is the crown of power; the crown of the priest, which is the crown of holiness; the crown of the scholar, which is the crown of learning; "but the crown of a good name, which is far better than riches, exceedeth them all in value." Lord Bacon said the power to do good is the true end of aspiration. While the ambition of the distinguished dead was lofty, he did not forget

that morality is the basis, sound-fixed principle the superstructure, and common sense the capstone of true greatness. There is a faith that works silently but mightily, because it loves fervently, and never worries because it never fears. Such was his faith and courage. As a lawyer, I am informed, he was always considerate, courteous, and just. As a judge he was painstaking and conscientious. Gentle in nature and amiable in disposition, he was lion-hearted in courage, mental as well as physical. He held the scales of justice evenly balanced at all times. He dared to do right and was "not afraid of the face of man."

We are told in a beautiful allegorical poem that Abou Ben Adhem, awakening from a dream, found an angel writing in a book of gold the name of those whom the love of God had blessed. "And is mine there?" he asked. The angel answered, "Nay." He said: "I pray thee, then, write me as one who loves his fellow-men." The angel wrote and vanished. The next night the angel came again with a great wakening light and showed the names whom love of God had blessed. "And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest." At the head of the list of those "whom the love of God had blessed" the recording angel has written in ever-living, radiant characters of gold the name of him who loves his fellow-men.

Full of humanity himself, a reciprocating people delighted to honor him. Thrice elected to Congress, he served his constituency faithfully and well. His life filled the measure of lofty aspiration, of a high and honorable ambition. His influence will work on silently for good long after we have passed away. The virtues of such a man are the common inheritance of us all. His bones are interred in the soil of his adopted State, but Alabama, loving him as a son and still claiming him as her own, craves permission to drop a tear upon his grave and to bring here, as a tender tribute, the white flowers of her abiding love.

Address of Mr. Thompson, of Alabama.

Mr. Speaker: In the death of Robert Emmet Burke Alabama sadly notes the close of the noble career of one of her most distinguished sons. His adopted State of Texas is justly proud of him, but no more proud than his native State of Alabama. He was born of honest and humble parents in a county adjoining my own, and one of the counties of my Congressional district. It was not my pleasure to know him personally, but I am proud to add a testimonial to the many already offered in memory of such a grand life, so full of usefulness to his people and his country.

Alabama has contributed a large number of useful and distinguished men to the national councils, and not a few have come out of Mr. Burke's native county, Tallapoosa. That county furnished the Lone Star State with another eminent and highly honored gentleman, Judge David B. Culberson, whose eldest son, also a native of Tallapoosa County, now fills a prominent position in the United States Senate in a manner worthy of his ancestry.

But we have no cause to be prouder of any man who has gone out of our State than of the lamented Robert Emmet Burke. He was an honest, unpretentious, unselfish, conscientious, courageous man. Prompted by the same patriotic motives that carried so many of our noble sons to the battlefield, he entered the military service of the Confederacy at the early age of 16 years, conceiving it to be not only his duty, but also a privilege to offer his life in defense of the principles animating the South in the terrific struggle of 1861–1865. And although I did not go with him through the bloody conflicts of

that war, being much younger than he was and far too young to act as a soldier, I know full well the brave record he made in the army, and the history of his subsequent public career—the splendid services he rendered to the State of Texas and to the United States. I know well the confidence which he won from the community in which he lived and the community at large. The esteem and honor bestowed upon him by his fellow-countrymen all along the journey of his life demonstrate to me his loyal devotion to his country and to what he considered to be right and his faithful performance of every duty that was intrusted to him.

I have alluded to some of his characteristics—his bravery, as shown in the war, his honesty, simplicity, and unselfishness, all of which were attested by the everyday acts of his life, and for which he became noted among all his friends and acquaintances. I might also dilate upon other characteristics—the sturdy perseverance and will power which enabled him to grapple with the hard conditions which confronted him at the end of the war, and the thoroughness and conscientious care which he bestowed on everything which he undertook. He found himself in 1865 without any money, without any profession, and without a sufficient education. Nevertheless, he determined to overcome all these obstacles. He determined to get an education and to become a lawyer; and in spite of his poverty he did get an education, and a good one, and did become a lawyer, and a very good one. In his new home in Texas, where he located in his nineteenth year, he settled down manfully to work and study, and by the time he was 23 years of age he had been admitted to the bar. Then followed eight years of steady devotion to his profession, during which he won the respect of every citizen of Dallas; and then, at the age of 31, he was elevated to the bench, serving as county judge and district judge for many years, and until he was promoted

in 1896 to represent his district in the Fifty-fifth Congress, and afterwards in the Fifty-sixth; and he had been reelected to this present Congress when death snatched him away from his field of usefulness in the prime of life and at the untimely age of 54.

This is certainly a proud record—the record of a self-made man, triumphant over the most disheartening difficulties, and successful in all essential particulars, socially, intellectually, and morally. And yet none could be more modest and unassuming than he was in relation to his achievements and abilities. For that very reason, all the more did his constituents at home and his associates here delight to honor him. He never boasted or pushed himself into prominence, but his works and deeds spoke for him and made him prominent. The testimony is unanimous as to the sterling character of his work as a lawyer and judge, and his record in Congress was also most honorable and serviceable, as we all know.

The pity of it is that he should have been cut down at the very height of his usefulness and when his race was but half run, at least so it appears to our finite intellects. We must not presume to criticise the decrees of the Almighty, who "doeth all things well," but there are times when human understanding is staggered and the human heart tempted to rebel as we contemplate such untimely deaths as this. However, we know that we must submit, and must at least try to realize that all is for the best. Happily, Mr. BURKE'S record was complete in one sense of the word. Though cut short, it was complete in quality. It had not a flaw in it, and its value as an example and an incentive to virtue for those of us who remain could not have been greater if he had lived a full century.

Personal fidelity to his duties was a shining quality in Judge BURKE. In this age of hurry and worry there is great tempta-

tion to attend to our business by proxy, and far too great yielding to the temptation. Judge BURKE did not delegate his duties to substitutes and subordinates. So far as it was physically possible, he personally attended to the requests of his friends and constituents. Indeed, it is probable that his untiring assiduity and conscientiousness in this respect caused the breakdown in his health which became noticeable in the last session of Congress.

Akin to this trait was his spirit of loving kindness toward his friends and toward all mankind. The list of the favors and benefits which he had conferred and showered all around him as he journeyed through life would be too long for anyone to undertake to write or to recite. The consequence was that his friends were true friends, and innumerable.

His character shone brightly also in his domestic relations, and sad indeed is the bereavement which has come to the family circle of such a man as Judge BURKE. Above all, he was a true and sincere Christian, and although he loved life, and strongly desired to live longer for the benefit of his fellow-men, when the summons came he was ready to obey it, and to resign his soul to Him in whom he had trusted. Though we who are left behind must sorrow over our great loss, we find unspeakable comfort in the sure belief that all is well with him now and forevermore.

ADDRESS OF MR. DE GRAFFENREID, OF TEXAS.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the 5th day of June, 1901, as the stars were fading away at the approach of the great luminary which fills the earth day by day with effulgent glory, the soul of ROBERT EMMET BURKE took its flight, and may we not indulge the hope to that eternal day that knows no ending, and which was greeted with the words "Well done, good and faithful servant?"

The mystery of death is not more mysterious than life; man is fearfully and wonderfully made; endowed with the power of choice, good and evil lies before him, a tremendous responsibility, and yet it is this thing that lifts him infinitely above the brute creation and makes him a son of the living God. The largest, the truest, the noblest man is he who, broad in his conceptions, grasps with unerring precision the path which leads to noblest life and follows it, neither swerving to the right nor the left, in obedience to duty's call; such a man was my colleague, my lamented friend, ROBERT EMMET BURKE. Were there obstacles in the way, he overcame them; were there disparagements, he rose above them; were there dangers, he feared them not; grandly, serenely he passed on.

A soldier fighting for his beloved South, a young man struggling for existence by day and bending over his books at the midnight hour; a lawyer advocating with power and earnestness the cause of his clients; a judge, industrious, studious, careful; a statesman on the floor of this House, he acquitted himself always with great credit, and won the esteem and plaudits of those who knew him. Were I called upon to analyze and

measure the characteristics which marked him, I should say industry, honesty, generosity, simplicity, nobility of soul, independence in thought and action. He respected the honest opinions of others, but was bound by none; his method was to carefully analyze, to sift, to weigh in the balance every question of moment, and then, without fear or favor, to act nobly his part. Nature endowed him with a rugged intellect, with fine discriminating powers, and a clear judgment, a kindly heart, a gentle disposition; these, coupled with industry, energy, a high and lofty purpose, made him the clean, pure, noble, manly man that we knew and respected.

It is not strange that he should have been selected by his fellow-citizens to adjudicate their differences and determine the law; that they should have selected him to represent them on the floor of this House, for they knew that in him was justice, that in him was honor, that in him were the elements of the statesman, and he proved himself worthy of that confidence in every instance. His death is therefore a public calamity. He will be missed in the district which he represented; he will be missed in the State that he loved; he will be missed by the nation dear to his heart, and still more will he be missed by his friends and neighbors, for they knew him as the Christian gentleman, devoted to the church of his choice, kind, gentle, charitable, benevolent. He never forgot a friend nor cherished malice. A hospitable home was his in which centered all those endearing affections which made it to him the dearest spot on earth, and there he will be missed and mourned till time shall reunite wife and children.

> And you, oh, you, who the wildest yearn
> For the old-time step and the glad return,
> Think of him faring on, as dear
> In the love of there as the love of here;
> Think of him still as the same, I say,
> He is not dead—he is just away.

Mr. WOOTEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that those who have addressed the House be allowed to extend their remarks in the Record, if they so desire, and that those who have not spoken but desire to contribute memorials to Judge BURKE may be permitted to print in the Record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Lanham). The gentleman from Texas asks unanimous consent that those gentlemen who have spoken to-day may have the privilege of extending their remarks in the Record; also, that other members who may desire to do so may print remarks in the Record on the life and character of the late Judge BURKE. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

And then (at 2 o'clock and 40 minutes p. m.) the House, in pursuance of the resolution, adjourned until Monday next at 12 o'clock meridian.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

JANUARY 16, 1902.

A message from the House communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. ROBERT E. BURKE, late a Representative from the State of Texas, and transmitted resolutions of the House thereon.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate resolutions of the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with regret and profound sorrow of the death of Hon. ROBERT E. BURKE, late Representative-elect from the Sixth district of the State of Texas, at his home in the city of Dallas, on June 5, 1901.

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House communicate a copy of these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the House do now adjourn out of respect to the memory of the deceased member.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. President, I submit resolutions and ask for their present consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The resolutions will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. ROBERT E. BURKE, late a Representative from the State of Texas.

Resolved, That as an additional mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions submitted by the Senator from Texas.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to; and (at 2 o'clock and 56 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until Monday, January 20, 1902, at 12 o'clock meridian.

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